

# CITIZEN ACTION

January 26, 1997

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Dear Newark Community Group/Social Service Agency:

Last year, the **Newark Partnership for Lead Safe Children** was formed to deal with the problem of lead poisoning of children in Newark, where the situation is most acute. Stemming from the chips and dust of lead-based paint prevalent in Newark's old housing, lead poisoning can lead to developmental disabilities and even coma, yet is entirely preventable. *The Health Departments for the City of Newark and the State of New Jersey reached out to community groups and social service agencies to create the Partnership to attempt to deal with this issue in a comprehensive, city-wide manner.*

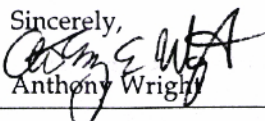
The goal of the Partnership is to develop ways where organizations can work an intergrated fashion to ultimately reduce the number of lead poisoned children. *A suggestion of the Partnership's Steering Committee was to create a **Resource Directory**, a reference guide of Newark groups that work on lead poisoning issues, or have extensive contact with families with children at high-risk of lead poisoning. (All children under six are at risk, although the problem has higher incidence in minority and low-income communities.)* We at NJ Citizen Action have agreed to compile this Resource Directory, and the information sought has been developed by the Steering Committee, to ensure its usefulness. *Please complete and mail or fax back the enclosed forms.* The deadline is February 13th, 1998: the sooner we get the forms back, the sooner we can compile the information and get you a copy for your work.

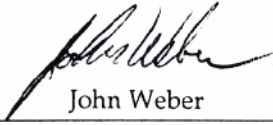
The Partnership hopes to develop a city-wide plan that includes government agencies and community-based organizations. With the participation of community groups, the City of Newark has a better chance of attracting more money from Federal and other sources. New resources could then go to community organizations, like yours, to deal with a part of the lead poisoning issue, such as lead education, prevention, testing, treatment, inspection, or abatement. The Partnership's potential is great, but we need participation from as many Newark organizations as possible. *The Partnership drafted the **sign-up statement** enclosed, which we hope your group can endorse, so that even if you can't participate fully, we can know of your interest, solicit your input, and inform you of the Partnership's activities.* If you can, please send the endorsement sheet with the Resource Directory form back to us, at:

New Jersey Citizen Action, c/o John Weber  
 85 Raritan Avenue, Suite 100, Highland Park, NJ 08904  
 FAX: (732) 214-8385

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation. With your help, we can work so that no more children have their futures impacted by the consequences of lead poisoning.

Sincerely,

  
 Anthony Wright

  
 John Weber

  
 Narciso Ortiz
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